GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:212
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2006
ALLEGED VIOLATION OF VIENNA CONVENTION
Pathak Shri Brajesh

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan is allegedly violating the Vienna Convention of 1961 while dealing with Indian diplomats;

(b) if so, the details of alleged misbehaviour by Pakistan with the Indian diplomats reported during the last three years till date;

(c) whether the Government has registered its protest to Pakistan in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of Pakistan thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) - (e) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (E) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 212 REGARDING "ALLEGED VIOLATION OF VIENNA CONVENTION" FOR ANSWER ON 06/12/2006

(a) & (b) Officers and Staff Members of the High Commission of India, Islamabad, are subjected to constant surveillance by intelligence and security personnel of the Government of Pakistan. There has often been close, visible and occasionally even aggressive tailing of officers of the Mission and their spouses. There have also been other forms of maltreatment and intimidatory tactics. In October 2006 there was an attempted break-in into the residence of an official. In August 2006 an official was illegally detained and interrogated. In March 2005 an official was intercepted and assaulted. In February 2005 the residence of an official was broken into. Such actions are in violation of obligations under the Vienna Convention of 1961 and the bilateral 'Code of Conduct for Treatment of Diplomatic/Consular Personnel in India and Pakistan', signed by the two countries in 1992.

(c) - (e) These incidents have been taken up with the Government of Pakistan at various levels and protests lodged. Government of Pakistan has stated that it concurs with the position that there should be no intimidation of diplomats of either country. However, the surveillance of our officers continues.